

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. As indicated above, Claims 1, 15 and 22 have been amended.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 15, 17, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,487,182 (*Hansson*) in view of Chinese Patent No. CN1149235 (*Xixun*), Claims 2 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansson* in view of *Xixun*, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0022701 A1 (*Gupta*), Claims 4-5 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansson* in view of *Xixun*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,825 (*Hahn et al.*), Claims 8, 9, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansson* in view of *Xixun*, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0016188A1 (*Kashiwamura*), Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansson* in view of *Xixun*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,459 (*Heeden*), Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansson* in view of *Xixun* and *Heeden*, and further in view of *Hahn et al.*, and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansson* in view of *Xixun* and *Heeden*, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0083024A1 (*Richenstein et al.*).

With regard to independent Claims 1, 15 and 22, the Examiner now asserts that *Hansson* teaches all the recitations of these claims, except for the external speaker and the external microphone each being fixedly attached to the user to provide a constant spatial separation therebetween, which the Examiner asserts is taught in *Xixun*. However, as indicated above, independent Claims 1, 15 and 22 have been amended to recite that the external speaker serves as a

speaker phone, which it is respectfully submitted distinguishes these claims from *Hansson* in view of *Xixun*. More specifically, in *Xixun* the external speaker is an earphone. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that an external speaker serving as a speakerphone in the present invention and the earphone in *Xixun* are different from each other.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 15, and 22 are patentably distinct from *Hansson* in view of *Xixun*. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 1, 15, and 22 be withdrawn.

Without conceding the patentability *per se* of the dependent claims, it is believed that dependent Claims 2-14 and 16-21 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, i.e. Claims 1-22, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this communication, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over a horizontal line.

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